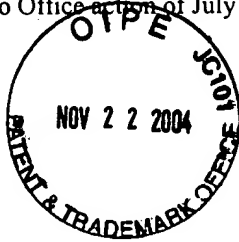


Appl. No. 09/880,612
Amdt. dated: September 29, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 1, 2004

COPY

Docket No. 52478-0500



**Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2877**

Appl. No.: 09/880,612
Applicant: Kenji Mukai
Filed: June 13, 2001

Docket No.: 52478-0500
Customer No.: 21611

Confirmation No.: 7017

Examiner: Pham, Hoa Q.
TC/A.U.: 2877

O.A. Date: July 1, 2004
Resp. Date: September 29, 2004

RULE 1.116 RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office action of July 1, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.